



Democracy's appeal is slipping as nations across much of the world hold elections, a poll finds

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI**
Associated Press

Representative democracy remains a favorite system of governance around the globe, but its appeal is slipping on the eve of elections in much of the world, according to a survey of 24 democratic countries by the Pew Research Center released Wednesday. While a median of 77% across the 24 surveyed countries said representative democracy was a "good" system of government, higher than any other alternative, a median of 59% told pollsters they were dissatisfied with how democracy was working in their own country. In the 22 countries where data was available from 2017, the last time Pew asked about democracy, the share describing democracy as a "very good" system was down in half of them. "People do like representative democracy. But you see here in lots of different ways people are really frustrated with how it's performing," said Richard Wike,

managing director of Pew's Global Attitudes research. "There's a real disconnect between people and their representatives."

Across the 24 countries — all democracies — a median of 74% said they don't believe elected officials care what people like them think. Only 10 of the 24 national leaders on the survey had favorable ratings from half or more of the public. But the alternatives were seen as even worse. Only six opposition leaders got favorable reviews, and a median of 42% of respondents said no political party in their country represented their viewpoint. People in the political center were more likely to report not feeling like a party represents their views.

The poll comes as the world's democracies prepare for a titanic year, with elections scheduled in more than 50 nations that represent half the world's population. That includes Indian elections this spring, European Union-wide elections in June and the No-



Argentina's President Javier Milei speaks during the Conservative Political Action Conference, CPAC 2024, at the National Harbor, in Oxon Hill, Md., Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024.

Associated Press

member presidential election in the United States. The voting comes as support for more authoritarian forms of government are on the rise. The Pew survey found that in eight of the surveyed countries, support for a "strong leader" who can make decisions with-

out court or legislative interference increased since 2017. Those countries included Brazil, Germany, Mexico, Kenya and Argentina, where Javier Milei, a self-described "anarcho-capitalist" whose supporters call him "the madman," won

that country's presidential election in November, after the Pew survey work was completed earlier last year. Overall, just under one-third typically backed some sort of authoritarian system across the surveyed countries.

Continued on next page



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Continued from Front

Support for a strong leader also rose in India, which stood out as the country with the highest level of support for that form of government, with 67% of those surveyed ranking it as a good system, an increase of 12 % from when Pew asked the question in 2017. India's popular prime minister, Narendra Modi, has been criticized for eroding that country's democratic and secular traditions with his Hindu nationalist party. But the country's residents also reported a high level of satisfaction with democracy in the poll, and Wike said the two factors are intertwined in India.

"These authoritarian models have more support there," Wike said. "That gives authorities some foundation of public support they can draw on."

The poll found support for a strong leader increased the most in Mexico, where it jumped 23% since 2017. At the same time, Mexico was one of three countries where support for democracy increased — Brazil and Poland were the other two. Support for more authoritarian leadership tended to be strongest among those with lower levels of education and income, as well as



Supporters cheer as Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at a primary election night party at the South Carolina State Fairgrounds in Columbia, S.C., Feb. 24, 2024.

Associated Press

those on the ideological right. Poorer countries registered higher support for autocratic systems, including military rule. Having the military in control of governing also was backed by about a third of all residents in eight of what Pew called more "middle-income" countries, such as Mexico, India, Indonesia and South Africa. Overall, though, military rule is the least popular form of government, with a

median of just 15% supporting it.

The U.S. is an outlier in multiple categories, including its support for more autocratic systems.

It was the wealthiest country surveyed, and while its support for autocratic systems was well below majority level — only 15% back military rule and 26% back a strong leader system — they were higher than half the other countries in the

poll.

That comes as former President Donald Trump, the leading candidate for the Republican Party's presidential nomination, has continued to speak warmly about authoritarian leaders, such as China's Xi Jinping, North Korea's Kim Jong Un and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

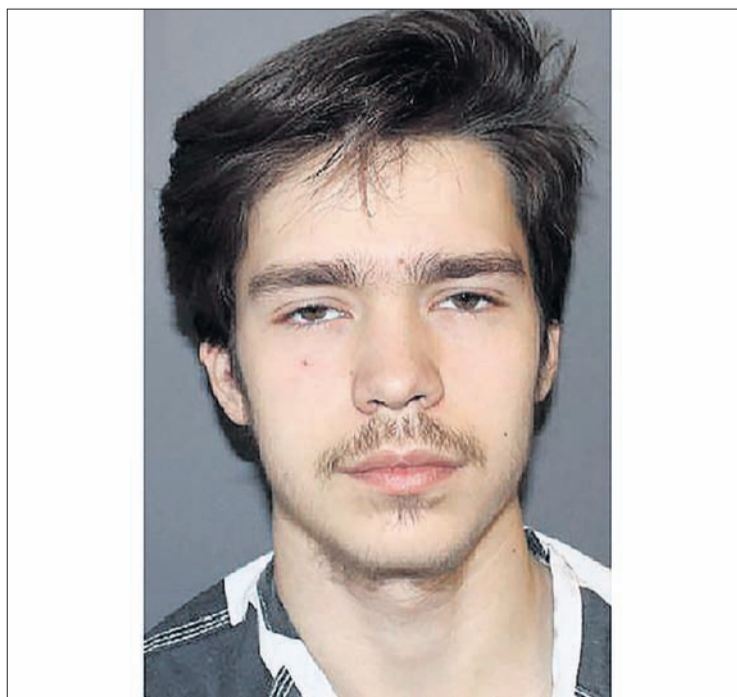
Wike said the U.S. also stands out for its polarization over questions of

whether more diverse representation would improve the country's policies. A median of 50% across the surveyed countries believe policies would improve if more women were elected, while in the U.S. that share was only 42%.

Across the surveyed countries, a median of 46% believed electing more younger adults to office would improve policies, while in the U.S. that share was 38%, the second-lowest recorded after Japan. The U.S. also registered the largest ideological gap on the question, with 7 in 10 liberals saying younger leaders would improve conditions and only 2 in 10 conservatives agreeing.

While representative democracy was the most popular system, direct democracy, in which citizens themselves vote on major issues, was close behind, with a median of 70% saying it would be a good way to run their country. Pew also found an increase in support for a system run by experts rather than elected officials, with a median of 58% backing that model. Pew surveyed 30,861 people in 24 countries between February and May 2023. The margin of error varied by country. □

U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert's son arrested in connection with string of vehicle break-ins, police say



This image provided by the City of Rifle Police Department shows Tyler Jay Boebert, arrested Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024 and facing possible felony charges of criminal possession of identification documents involving multiple victims and conspiracy to commit a felony, the Rifle Police Department said in a statement.

Associated Press

By COLLEEN SLEVIN and JESSE BEDAYN

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — The oldest son of U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert was in a Colorado jail on Wednesday after being arrested in connection with a recent string of vehicle break-ins and property thefts.

Tyler Jay Boebert, 18, was arrested Tuesday afternoon and is facing possible felony charges of criminal possession of identification documents involving multiple victims and conspiracy to commit a felony, the Rifle Police Department said in a statement. He also faces over 15 additional misdemeanor and petty offenses, it said.

Jail records say other charges he is being held on include theft of less than

\$300, criminal possession of a financial device and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Police have not described what Tyler Boebert is accused of doing. They said the investigation was ongoing and would not release any other information at this time.

There was no attorney listed as representing Tyler Boebert in court records. He was scheduled to appear in court in the afternoon.

Lauren Boebert, a staunch ally of former President Donald Trump, used to live in a town near Rifle, a city of about 10,000 people in western Colorado, but switched districts in December, escaping a tough reelection bid.

Earlier this month, she obtained a temporary re-

straining order against her ex-husband after accusing him of threatening to harm her and entering the family's home without permission. It was the latest in a series of flare-ups between her and Jayson Boebert. In seeking the order, she cited the family turmoil as another reason for her move to Windsor in her new district. □

About as many abortions are happening in the US monthly as before Roe was overturned, report finds

By GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press

The number of abortions performed each month is about the same as before the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and the nationwide right to abortion more than a year and a half ago, a new report finds.

The latest edition of the #WeCount report conducted for the Society of Family Planning, a nonprofit organization that promotes research on abortion and contraception, finds that between 81,150 and 88,620 abortions took place each month from July through September of last year, the most recent period for which survey results are available. Those numbers are just slightly lower than the monthly average of about 86,800 from April through June 2022, before Roe and just after was overturned.

But abortion data is seasonal, and the same survey found more abortions across the U.S. in the spring



Activists mark the first anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, by displaying neon signage in support of abortion access in front of the Supreme Court on June 23, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

months of 2023 than it did in the period the year before leading up to the court's decision. The report also finds that prescriptions of abortion pills by telemedicine have become common, accounting for about one in every six abortions

in the most recent three months of survey results.

"Even when a state bans abortion, people continue to need and seek abortion care," Alison Norris, a professor at Ohio State University's College of Public Health and one of the co-

chairs of the study, said in a statement. "We can't let the overall consistent number of abortions nationally obscure the incredible unmet need and disastrous impact of abortion bans on people who already have the least access."

The report estimates that if states had not been allowed to ban abortion, there would have been a total of 120,000 more during the survey period in the 14 states where bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy are now in place. Although the number of monthly abortions has dropped to nearly zero in states with bans, they have risen in states that allow abortion, including Florida, Illinois and Kansas, which border states with bans.

The tracking effort collects monthly data from providers across the country, creating a snapshot of abortion trends after Roe v. Wade was overturned. In some states, a portion of the data is estimated.

The effort makes data public with less than a six-month lag, giving a picture of trends far faster than annual reports from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where the most recent report covers abortion in 2021. □

Justice Department finds problems with violence, gangs and poor conditions in 3 Mississippi prisons

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Gangs, violence and sexual assaults are a problem in three Mississippi prisons because the facilities are short-staffed and inmates are sometimes left unsupervised, the Department of Justice said in a report Wednesday.

The department said the state failed to protect inmates' safety, control contraband or investigate harm and misconduct.

"These basic safety failures and the poor living conditions inside the facilities promote violence, including sexual assault," the department said. "Gangs operate in the void left by staff and use violence to control people and traffic contraband."

The department investigated Central Mississippi Cor-

rectional Facility, South Mississippi Correctional Institution and Wilkinson County Correctional Facility. The new report says the conditions in those three prisons are similar to problems that the department reported in 2022 at Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman.

"People do not surrender their constitutional rights at the jailhouse door," Kristen Clarke, the department's assistant attorney general for civil rights, said during a news conference Wednesday.

A spokesperson for the Mississippi Department of Cor-

rections did not immediately respond to an email message from The Associated Press seeking response to the federal findings.

The new Justice Department report says "appalling conditions" in restrictive housing practices at the Central Mississippi and Wilkinson prisons cause "substantial risk of serious harm."

"Restrictive housing units are unsanitary, hazardous, and chaotic, with little supervision," the Justice Department said. "They are breeding grounds for suicide, self-inflicted injury, fires, and assaults."

The department said the Mississippi Department of Corrections does not have enough staff to supervise the prison population, with job vacancy rates of 30% to 50%.

"The mismatch between

the size of the incarcerated population and the number of security staff means that gangs dominate much of prison life, and contraband and violence, including sexual violence, proliferate," the Justice Department said. "Prison officials rely on ineffective and overly harsh restrictive housing practices for control."

Clarke said that because of "poor door security" and lack of supervision in Central Mississippi Correctional Facility, multiple incarcerated men were able to enter a women's housing unit. "They stayed and engaged in sexual activity for an extended period," Clarke said. "Although the sexual activity was reportedly consensual, the other women in the unit felt unsafe and were at risk of harm." □



The logo of the Mississippi Department of Corrections is shown on the shirt of a corrections officer on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl, Miss.

Associated Press

Wildfire grows into 2nd-largest in Texas history as flames menace multiple small towns

By SEAN MURPHY and JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press

CANADIAN, Texas (AP) — A cluster of wildfires scorched the Texas Panhandle on Wednesday, including a blaze that grew into one of the largest in state history, as flames blackened the landscape across a vast stretch of small towns and cattle ranches.

Authorities warned that the damage to communities on the high plains could be extensive.

The largest fire which expanded to nearly 800 square miles (2,072 square kilometers) jumped into parts of neighboring Oklahoma and was completely uncontained as dawn broke, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service.

Authorities had not reported any deaths or injuries as of Wednesday morning while huge plumes of smoke billowed hundreds of feet in the air. But officials warned residents of potentially large property losses. Hemphill County Emergency Management Coordinator Bill Kendall described the charred terrain as being "like a moonscape. ... It's just all gone."

Kendall said about 40 homes were burned around the perimeter of



Smoldering remains are seen Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024 after a wildfire passed near Canadian, Texas.

Associated Press

the town of Canadian, but no buildings were lost inside the community.

"We started getting those losses in the dark, so we didn't really know what we had until this morning, until we could see," he said.

The town of Fritch, with a population of less than 2,000, lost hundreds of homes in a 2014 fire and appeared to be hit hard again.

The people in that area are probably not "prepared for what they're going to see if they pull into town," Hutchinson County Emergency Management spokesperson Deidra Thomas said in a social media livestream. She compared the damage to a tornado. The town remained unsafe for people to return, she said.

Tresea Rankin videotaped

her own home in the town of Canadian as it burned.

"Thirty-eight years of memories, that's what you were thinking," Rankin said of watching the flames destroy her house. "Two of my kids were married there ... But you know, it's OK, the memories won't go away." Authorities have not said what ignited the fires, but strong winds, dry grass and unseasonably warm tem-

peratures fed the blazes. Near Borger, a community of about 13,000 people, emergency officials at one point late Tuesday answered questions from panicked residents on Facebook and told them to get ready to leave if they had not already.

"It was like a ring of fire around Borger. There was no way out ... all four main roads were closed," said Adrianna Hill, 28, whose home was within about a mile of the fire.

She said a northern wind that blew the fire in the opposite direction "saved our butts."

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration for 60 counties. The encroaching flames caused the main facility that disassembles America's nuclear arsenal to pause operations Tuesday night, but it was open for normal work on Wednesday. The blazes tore through sparsely populated counties on the vast, high plains that are punctuated by cattle ranches and oil rigs. The main fire, known as the Smoke House Creek Fire, had grown to more than half the size of the state of Rhode Island. It is five times larger than on Monday, when it began. □

Boeing given 90 days by FAA to come up with a plan to improve safety and quality of manufacturing

By DAVID KOENIG

AP Airlines Writer

The Federal Aviation Administration is giving Boeing 90 days to come up with a plan to fix quality problems and meet safety standards for building new planes.

The agency said Wednesday that the directive follows meetings with top Boeing officials, including the company's CEO at FAA headquarters in Washington.

"Boeing must commit to real and profound improvements," said FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker. "Making foundational change will require a sustained ef-

fort from Boeing's leadership, and we are going to hold them accountable

every step of the way."

The FAA said new deadline comes after FAA Ad-



The final version of the 737 MAX, the MAX 10, takes off from Renton Airport in Renton, Wash., on its first flight Friday, June 18, 2021.

Associated Press

ministrator Mike Whitaker met with Boeing CEO David Calhoun and other top company officials.

Calhoun said that "we have a clear picture of what needs to be done" because of company and independent reviews. "Boeing will develop the comprehensive action plan with measurable criteria that demonstrates the profound change that Administrator Whitaker and the FAA demand."

The FAA did not indicate what action it might take if Boeing fails to meet the 90-day deadline.

The FAA is currently com-

pleting an audit of assembly lines at the factory near Seattle, where Boeing builds planes like the 737 Max that suffered a door-panel blowout in January. Investigators say bolts that help keep the panel in place were missing after repair work on the Alaska Airlines jet at the Boeing factory.

This week, a panel of industry, government and academic experts issued a report that found shortcomings in the safety culture at Boeing, which the company says it has been working to improve. □

The UK is stepping up lawmakers' security as tensions flare over the Israel-Hamas war

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The British government said Wednesday that it is stepping up security for lawmakers after politicians reported threats and intimidation connected to the Israel-Hamas war. The Home Office said a 31 million-pound (\$40 million) fund will give every lawmaker a "dedicated named police contact" and provide money for those facing threats to pay for private security protection.

The government said some of the money will go more broadly to protecting Britain's "democratic processes from intimidation, disruption or subversion" ahead of a general election later this year. The fund includes money for extra police patrols in areas where tensions are high.

The announcement got a mixed reception. Some legislators said the heightened security measures didn't address the underlying reasons why politics has grown more toxic. Anti-war activists claimed the government was trying to stifle protest and lumping peaceful demonstrators in with violent extremists.

British lawmakers have a



Tourists hold umbrellas against the rain as they walk in Parliament Square next to the the Houses of Parliament in London, Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024.

tradition of meeting regularly with constituents in their local communities, but security has been tightened after several attacks in the last decade. In 2016, Labour lawmaker Jo Cox was killed by a far-right extremist, and Conservative David Amess was murdered in 2021 by an attacker inspired by the Islamic State group.

In 2017 an Islamic State-inspired extremist killed four people with a vehicle on Westminster Bridge before stabbing a police officer to

death at the gates of Parliament. The following year a neo-Nazi pleaded guilty to plotting to kill a Labour lawmaker.

Divisions over the conflict in Gaza have convulsed British politics, with some lawmakers saying they fear for their safety after receiving threats over their positions on the war. Reports of both antisemitic and anti-Muslim abuse in Britain have soared since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel, which triggered Israel's invasion of Gaza.

A debate last week in the House of Commons on whether to call for a cease-fire descended into chaos amid allegations the speaker of the house had bent parliamentary rules in response to pressure from pro-Palestinian activists. Pro-Palestinian demonstrators protested at the house of a Conservative lawmaker earlier this month, while environmental activists have targeted Sunak's family home in northern England.

On Saturday, Prime Minis-

ter Rishi Sunak suspended Conservative lawmaker Lee Anderson for saying Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, who is Muslim, was controlled by Islamists and had allowed them to take charge of the city.

Conservative lawmaker Mike Freer who has announced he is stepping down because of abuse and death threats linked to his support for Israel said the money announced Wednesday was only "dealing with the symptom" rather than "going to the root cause" of why people feel emboldened to attack politicians.

"Security is welcome," Freer told Times Radio.

"But frankly, unless you get to the root cause, then you're just going to have a ring of steel around MPs. And our whole style of democracy changes."

Home Secretary James Cleverly called on pro-Palestinian demonstrators to halt the mass protests that have drawn hundreds of thousands of people to central London almost weekly to call for a cease-fire in a conflict that has killed close to 30,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza health ministry in the Hamas-run territory. □

Associated Press

An international monitoring mission says Serbia's election was held in unjust conditions

By JOVANA GEC
Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Serbia's recent disputed election was held in "unjust conditions" in part because of the president's involvement and systemic advantages for the ruling party, a report by international monitors said Wednesday.

The report by an office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also said the December election in the Balkan nation was "marred by harsh rhetoric, bias in the media, pressure on public sector employees and mis-

use of public resources." Serbia is a candidate for European Union membership, but the populist gov-



Serbian outgoing Prime Minister Ana Brnabic speaks during a press conference in Belgrade, Serbia, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024.

Associated Press

ernment of President Aleksandar Vucic has faced accusations of curbing democratic freedoms. The opposition asserts it was robbed of a victory in the capital, Belgrade, and that the entire electoral process was irregular. The political tensions have led to large street protests.

Vucic and his ruling Serbian Progressive Party have denied wrongdoing. Election authorities declared the ruling populists the winners of the vote for the 250-member Serbian assembly and for municipal authorities in some 60 communities.

Citing parts of the new report by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Prime Minister Ana Brnabic accused opposition groups and independent media of creating a "false narrative" about the alleged fraud with an aim to destabilize the country.

"The elections in Serbia were free and fair," Brnabic said, claiming the report proves it. The report, however, said the "decisive involvement" of Vucic, "together with the ruling party's systemic advantages, created unjust conditions for contestants." □

ICC awards \$56 million in reparations to thousands of victims of convicted Ugandan rebel commander

By MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Judges at the International Criminal Court on Wednesday granted reparations of more than 52 million euros (\$56 million) to thousands of victims of a convicted commander in the shadowy Ugandan rebel group the Lord's Resistance Army.

The nearly 50,000 victims covered by the order included former child soldiers and children born as a result of rapes and forced pregnancies.

Dominic Ongwen was convicted three years ago of 61 offenses, including murders, rapes, forced marriages and recruiting child soldiers in 2002-2005. An ICC appeals panel upheld his convictions and 25-year sentence in late 2022, setting the stage for an order for reparations.

"Tens of thousands of individuals suffered tremendous harm due to the unimaginable atrocities committed" as rebel fighters led by Ongwen attacked four camps for displaced people in northern Uganda, said Presiding Judge Ber-



Dominic Ongwen sits in the court room to listen to the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court's judgment on the Defence's appeals against his conviction and sentence in The Hague, Netherlands, Dec. 15, 2022.

tram Schmitt.

"Similarly, over 100 women and girls and thousands of children, boys and girls under the age of 15 suffered profound, multifaceted harm as a result of being kidnapped. Many were later subjected to sexual and gender based crimes and/or forced to serve as LRA

soldiers, being kept in captivity with cruel methods of physical and psychological coercion," he added. Ongwen was not in court for the reparations hearing. While he is considered liable for the reparations, the court ruled that he is indigent and said the reparations will be paid by a trust

fund for victims set up by the court's member states. Schmitt urged "states, organisations, corporations and private individuals to support the trust funds for victims' mission and efforts and contribute to its fundraising activities." He said victims would each receive 750 euros (\$812) as

a "symbolic award" while other reparations would come in the form of community-based rehabilitation programs.

Evidence at Ongwen's trial established that female civilians captured by the LRA were turned into sex slaves and wives for fighters. The LRA made children into soldiers. Men, women and children were murdered in attacks on camps for internally displaced people.

"The chamber concludes that the direct victims of the attacks, the direct victims of sexual and gender based crimes and the children born out of those crimes, as well as the former child soldiers, suffered serious and long-lasting physical, moral and material harm," Schmitt said.

The LRA began its attacks in Uganda in the 1980s, when one of the court's most-wanted fugitives, Joseph Kony, sought to overthrow the government. After being pushed out of Uganda, the militia terrorized villages in Congo, Central Africa Republic and South Sudan. Ongwen was among those abducted by the militia led by Kony. □

Associated Press

Northern Ireland judge rules that amnesty law for 'the Troubles' breaches human rights

By SYLVIA HUI
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A new law that gives immunity from prosecution for most offenses committed during Northern Ireland's decades of sectarian violence is not compliant with human rights, a judge in Belfast ruled Wednesday.

The British government's Legacy and Reconciliation Bill, passed in September, stops most prosecutions for alleged killings by militant groups and British soldiers during "the Troubles" the period in Northern Ireland from the 1960s to the '90s in which more than 3,500 people died.

The law was widely opposed by people in Northern Ireland and the Irish

government. Critics say it shuts down access to justice for victims and survivors.

Ruling in a legal challenge brought by victims and their families, Justice Adrian Colton said the law's provision for conditional immunity from prosecution breaches the European Convention on Human Rights.

The judge also said the law will not contribute to peace in Northern Ireland.

"There is no evidence that the granting of immunity under the act will in any way contribute to reconciliation in Northern Ireland; indeed the evidence is to the contrary," he said at Belfast High Court.

However, Colton ruled that

a new body set up to probe Troubles killings, to be loosely modeled on South Africa's post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission, could carry out human rights-compliant investigations.

Britain's government said it will consider the ruling carefully but added that it remained "committed" to implementing the legacy bill.

Amnesty International said there were "significant questions" for Britain's government to answer, and urged officials to repeal the law.

"The core part of this legislation was the immunity from prosecution. That has now been stripped out, struck out from the law.

So it's back to Parliament and back to the U.K. government about what they

are going to do next," said Grainne Teggart of Amnesty. □



Martina Dillon, whose husband, Seamus, was shot and killed outside the Glengannon Hotel in Dungannon, speaks to the media outside Belfast High Court after a High Court judge ruled that one of the key elements in the UK government's Troubles Act is unlawful, in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024.

Associated Press

Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.



Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.



Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light



Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found

brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks.

along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet

The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years. Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas an invasive species introduced by humans as pets and humans through destruction of their habitat.

are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive matu-

rity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long



period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/>

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health

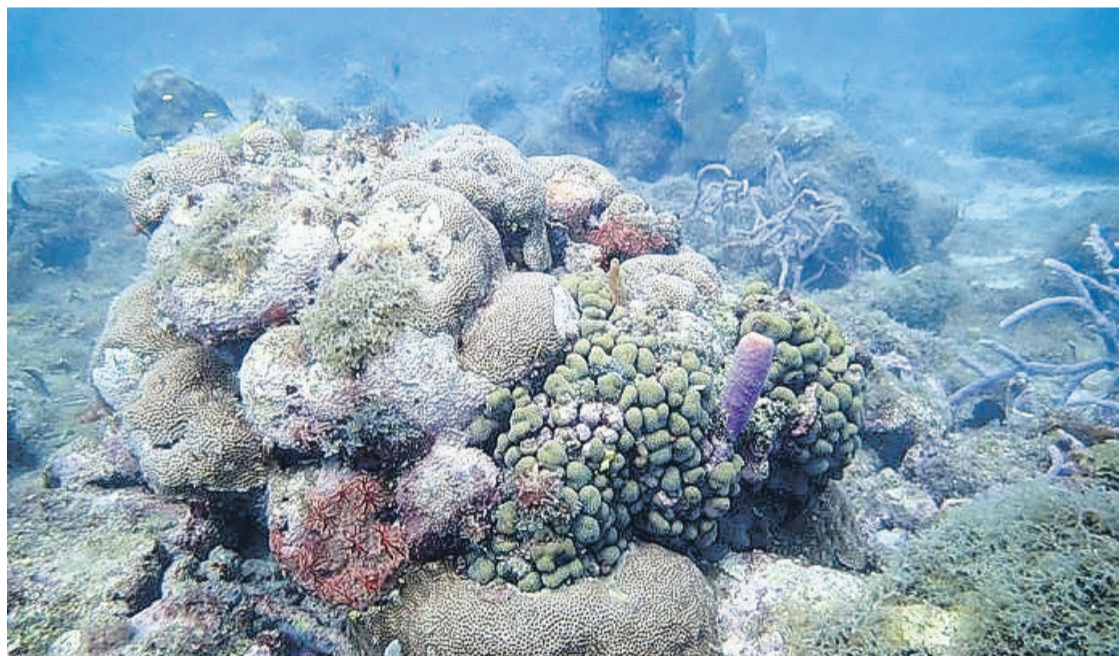
and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history,

history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen!



Hotel Embassy Suites has obtained a "Juanita Beach" temporary permit

Through a post by Aruba Birdlife Conservation (ABC), the movement happening on a beach located near Eagle Beach is illustrated, where they began setting up palapas and preparing the terrain to make it more attractive for tourists to enjoy.

In August 2023, Minister of Nature, Ursell Arends, informed that the Government was considering another option proposed by the developer of Embassy Suites, as the construction permit to create a beach in front of Embassy Suites

by the developer Natura N.V. was relevant.

Yesterday, our sister newspaper Bon Dia Aruba confirmed that the hotel obtained a temporary permit to use a beach area for water sports. This does not concern the same area that was legally disputed in the past but another beach adjacent to it, called "Juanita Beach," which does not have ROPV protection.

Photos are from ABC's Facebook Page.



Winnie and Skipp are back in Aruba!

This is their 40th year coming to Aruba and we all are happy when they are back on our lovely island. This couple did an amazing promotion for Aruba over the years and we can't repay them but our love for them is greater than ever.

Winnie celebrated her 85th years of a very happy life and been married for 65 years with her handsome man Skipp. Wishing Winnie all the best in good health so she can return for the 2nd time this year in July.

Photo by @SteveFrancees.



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Aruba Tourism Authority honors a loyal visitor at Divi Phoenix Hotel!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba.

These Ambassadors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10)years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20)years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35)years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Emerald Ambassador Mrs. Martha Pav-

lakos from New York, United States

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Divi Phoenix Hotel bestowed the honor certification to the honoree, presented her with gifts, and thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination, as her home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mrs. Pavlakos were:

- Aruba's beaches
- Aruba's friendly people
- Aruba's sun
- Aruba's food
- Aruba`s hospitality

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for his continued visits to the "One Happy Island".

Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours!



The 'Historical Route of Eagle' has been unveiled



On Friday night, Minister of Culture **Xiomara Maduro** had the pleasure of unveiling a cultural project, the 'Historical Route of Eagle.' It is an initiative project by the Aruba Monument Fund Foundation together with students from the Hogeschool van Rotterdam SUS Atelier, **Glen Gorddijn**, and student

Ricardo Arends, which tells the story of the second refinery of Aruba, **Arend Petroleum Company** known as **Eagle Refinery**, the **Eagle neighborhood**, and **Aruba's important role for allies during World War II**.

On this occasion, Minister Maduro shared a bit of the history of the

Eagle neighborhood. In the early 1920s, Aruba had two refineries. In 1924, Lago Oil & Transport Ltd was established, followed by De Arend Petroleum Maatschappij in 1927. These two refineries played a significant role in World War II as they supplied oil to the allies. It was from the 'Arend' refinery that this neighborhood got its name 'Eagle,' as well as our 'Eagle Beach.'

Minister Maduro shared a bit of history: "This Eagle refinery employed more than seven thousand workers from 58 different countries. In this area, the refinery built a factory to refine oil, a laboratory, and a fire station. They also built their headquarters, which is exactly the building where we stand today." The official also mentioned that the refinery built special houses for refinery personnel, some houses in the neighborhood, the Eagle tennis club, and the hospital that still stands there.

Aruba played an important role in World War II with these two refineries. Germany had its eyes on Aruba, and they sent a submarine to destroy these refineries to prevent the allies from getting their fuel. The submarine attacked the tanker Arkansas and killed several people, including Bonerians. However, the submarine failed in its mission to destroy the refineries, thanks to our Lord God.

According to the official, in 2018, she received an invitation from the Aruba Monument Fund Foundation for a presentation by a group of students from Hogeschool Rotterdam, who, in just two weeks, researched, inventoried, and

identified the visible sites in the Eagle area, as well as those no longer present, to create a historical route with the aim of reviving the practically forgotten history of the Eagle area. After several years of hard work and perseverance, this beautiful project was realized with financial assistance from Vfonds. The 'Eagle History Tour' project is of utmost importance as it will illuminate parts of our past, educate, and also honor the sacrifices made during one of the darkest chapters in our history. It is not only about buildings and objects but also about commemorating the victims of both World Wars.

The story of the Eagle refinery, once a symbol of Aruba's industrial power alongside Lago in San Nicolas, tells us about Aruba's development from its beginnings in 1924 to its dismantling in the fifties and sixties, making way for tourism, which until today is Aruba's most important economic pillar.

The 'Eagle History Tour' project will create a connection between Aruba's history, industrial cultural heritage, and tourism, creating a new attraction for our visitors while educating locals and especially the younger generations about Aruba's industrial history and the important role of the Eagle refinery in the World Wars, as the official emphasized in her speech. Furthermore, in the near future, plaques will be placed at five different sites with QR codes containing important historical information in four different languages, as well as art objects and educational programs.

Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Playa Linda Hotel!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing an Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. These Ambassadors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging his years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels

are as follows:

- Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)**
- Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)**
- Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)**

The honoree was:

Emerald Ambassador
Mr. Sidney Tobias & Mary Ann Tobias from New Jersey, United States

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism

Authority, and staff members of Playa Linda Hotel bestowed the honor certification to the honoree, presented him with gifts, and thanked him for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination, as his home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's family feeling.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's restaurant.
- Aruba's locals.

On behalf of the Aruba

Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for his

continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in both at maximum and minimum speeds is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your



exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout) Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could and has caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit?

left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can

be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you.

So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt!

□



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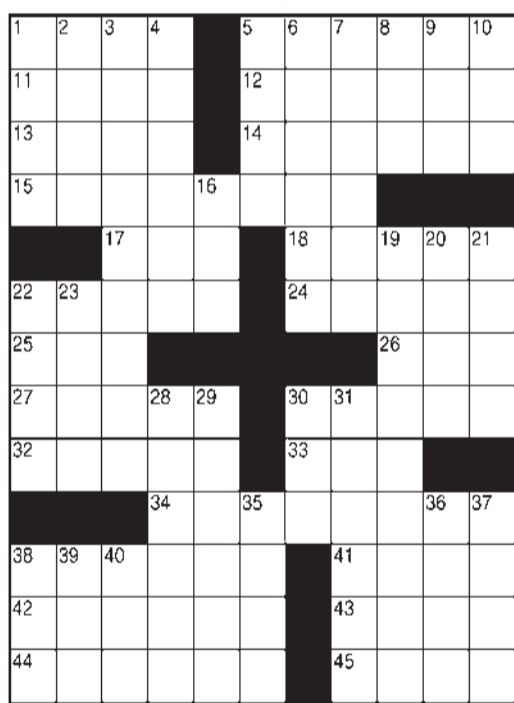
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Make finer
 - 5 Salt
 - 11 Pale tan
 - 12 Duds
 - 13 Lewd look
 - 14 Spurred on
 - 15 It ends when the parachute opens
 - 17 Summer sign
 - 18 Boosts
 - 22 Sound from a smithy
 - 24 Singer McLachlan
 - 25 Try for office
 - 26 Sense of self
 - 27 Spanish hero
 - 30 Give it —!
 - 32 Kagan of the Supreme Court
 - 33 Bar topic
 - 34 Bahamas city
 - 38 Crafty
 - 41 Sketched
 - 42 Truck fuel
 - 43 Radius partner
 - 44 Ignores the limit
 - 45 Track figures
- DOWN**
- 1 Introspective study
 - 2 Bakery worker
 - 3 Like many jobs in the gig economy
 - 4 Soup holder
 - 5 Long story
 - 6 Coral islands
 - 7 Romas nation
 - 8 Jar part
 - 9 Smelter supply
 - 10 Stop signal
 - 16 Sailing hazard
 - 19 Democracies, collectively
 - 20 Gift attachments
 - 21 Bar order
 - 22 Ontario tribe
 - 23 Temporary calm
 - 28 Fill
 - 29 Moved quickly
 - 30 Hoppy brew
 - 31 OutKast, e.g.
 - 35 Snaky fish
 - 36 Tear
 - 37 "— brillig ..."
 - 38 Spots on TV
 - 39 Try the tea
 - 40 Golf prop



Yesterday's answer

- 19 Democracies, collectively
- 20 Gift attachments
- 21 Bar order
- 22 Ontario tribe
- 23 Temporary calm
- 28 Fill
- 29 Moved quickly
- 30 Hoppy brew
- 31 OutKast, e.g.
- 35 Snaky fish
- 36 Tear
- 37 "— brillig ..."
- 38 Spots on TV
- 39 Try the tea
- 40 Golf prop



2-29

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-29

CRYPTOQUOTE

PMNNE LJDBPIME BG MAA EGF

A R M N A J Z S X L G D Z G Z

WRLDFMDE 29! — WDGU EGF

NFKKAR WDJRZIX

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LOVE MAKES YOUR SOUL CRAWL OUT FROM ITS HIDING PLACE. — ZORA NEALE HURSTON

Amazon joins 29 other 'blue chip' companies in the Dow Jones Industrial Average

By ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

Amazon.com Inc. is joining the ranks of one of Wall Street's oldest and most ex-

clusive stock indexes: The Dow Jones Industrial Average.

The e-commerce pioneer will officially take its position among the 30-company Dow before the open of trading Monday, replacing drugstore operator Walgreens Boots Alliance. S&P Dow Jones Indices opened the door to Amazon's inclusion in the Dow and Walgreens' exit to re-balance the index in light of a 3-for-1 stock split by another Dow company, Walmart.

Seattle-based Amazon will share membership in the

Dow with the likes of Apple, Boeing, JPMorgan Chase and Coca-Cola.

WHAT IS THE DOW?

It's a measure of 30 stocks of established, well-known companies. These stocks are sometimes known as "blue chips," which are supposed to be on the steadier and safer side of Wall Street.

WHAT'S IN THE DOW?

Not just industrial companies like Caterpillar and Honeywell, despite the name.

The roster has changed many times since the Dow began in May 1896 as the U.S. economy has transformed. Out, for example, was Standard Rope & Twine, and in recently have been big technology companies. Apple, Intel and Microsoft are some of the newer-economy names currently in the Dow. □



The Amazon logo is seen, June 15, 2023, at the Vivatech show in Paris. Amazon releases results on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024. Associated Press

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New comedy series 'The Completely Made-Up Adventures of Dick Turpin' stands and delivers

NEW YORK (AP) — Noel Fielding trades pastry for pistols in the new mouthful of a TV series "The Completely Made-Up Adventures of Dick Turpin," a swashbuckling romp that's miles from the genteel tent of "The Great British Bake Off."

The English writer, comedian and TV host is a highway robber in 1735 in the zany Apple TV+ series, playing a gentle soul in the harsh world of forest-based stick-ups, witches and curses. It starts airing Friday.

"I just forgot that I'd missed that kind of comedy," says Fielding. "I love comedy and I love weird comedy, and I'm sort of interested in these magical, fantastical realms, really."

In this madcap world, Dick Turpin is a terrible fit as a robber. He has a fondness for knitting, for starters, and prefers peppermint tea over ale. After a robbery, he asks his victims for feedback to improve the experience. "I'm new school. There's going to be less violence on my watch. More charm. Maybe even some panache," he vows.

Fielding, a writer and producer as well as star, says



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Noel Fielding in "The Completely Made-Up Adventures of Dick Turpin," premiering March 1.

the humor he drew on includes "The Princess Bride," "Blackadder," "Time Bandits," "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" and "Blazing Saddles."

The series is loosely based on a real robber named Dick Turpin, an English outlaw not unlike Jesse James or Billy the Kid. He was popularized by 1980s pop star Adam Ant, who donned a frock coat and tricorne hat and had a

hit with Turpin's famous slogan, "Stand and Deliver." Fielding has his own model for Turpin Paul Newman's Butch Cassidy. "He's quite an interesting character because he's not very good at shooting, he's not very good at fighting, but he has lots of ideas and he's quite charming. That's kind of all he's got, which is brilliant." This Turpin is a butcher's son who becomes vegan and sort of falls into

robbing stagecoaches. "I just feel like I'm destined to do something something big, something creative," he says in the pilot. At one point, he announces: "I haven't been this excited since I discovered my own cheekbones."

The first episode has Turpin join a motley gang of robbers and attempt to lead them while avoiding the local evil guy, played by Hugh Bonneville, known

from "Downton Abbey." Turpin is a little eccentric, very modern and free-spirited. He actually doesn't really like violence, which creates quite a lot of tension between him and his gang and the other highway gangs, who find him absolutely ludicrous.

"We wanted to have this sort of modern character in this quite hard world with these sort of scary characters and people are getting killed around him and shot," says Fielding. "He, somehow, in a childlike, weird way, manages to avoid danger and get them out of trouble every week." In the second episode, the gang tries to boost its rating with rivals by robbing a cursed coach.

In the third, they visit London to fence some stolen gold and get in some sticky situations, including an underground fight club. The fourth deals with a witch, giving them a chance to satirize conspiracy theorists. Kenton Allen, an executive producer of "The Completely Made-Up Adventures of Dick Turpin," says the series is more filmic than other recent comedies — big and silly and physical. □

Associated Press

Donna Summer estate sues Ye and Ty Dolla \$ign, saying they illegally used 'I Feel Love'

By **ANDREW DALTON**
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The estate of Donna Summer sued Ye and Ty Dolla \$ign on Tuesday for what its attorneys say is the "shamelessly" illegal use of her 1977 song "I Feel Love" in their collaboration "Good (Don't Die)."

The copyright infringement lawsuit was filed in federal court in Los Angeles by Summer's husband Bruce Sudano in his capacity as executor of the estate of the singer-songwriter and "Disco Queen," who died in 2012.

The suit alleges that when representatives of Ye, formerly Kanye West, sought permission for use of the

song they were rejected because the Summer estate "wanted no association with West's controversial history."

The suit contends that the album instead "shamelessly" includes re-recorded parts of the song that were "instantly recognizable."

"In the face of this rejection," the suit says, "defendants arrogantly and unilaterally decided they would simply steal 'I Feel Love' and use it without permission."

An email seeking comment from representatives for Ye was not immediately returned.

"I Feel Love," co-written by Summer, Giorgio Moroder and Pete Bellotte, is

a hugely influential track off Summer's album "I Remember Yesterday" that is considered one of the first instances of electronic dance music. The concept album had songs representing different decades. "I Feel Love," with Summer's ecstatic moans and minimalist lyrics, was meant to represent the future. "Good (Don't Die)" was released February 10 on Ye and Ty Dolla \$ign's collaborative album, "About Vultures 1." The lawsuit names as defendants both artists and Ye's record label Yeezy.

The estate first publicly alleged the copyright violation in an Instagram post on the official Summer ac-

count on the day of the album's release.

It seeks a judge's injunction stopping any further circulation of the song, and money damages to be de-

termined at trial.

The song does not currently appear on the version of the album available on Spotify and other streaming services. □



Donna Summer performing at the Nobel Peace concert Dec. 11, 2009, in Oslo, Norway.

Associated Press

MLB wants to make starting pitching more prominent, but it's a tough task in today's game

By JAY COHEN
AP Baseball Writer

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Max Scherzer logged at least 179 innings in 10 of his first 16 years in the majors. And the three-time Cy Young Award winner learned some tough lessons on the road to pitching deep into games.

That's one reason why the Texas Rangers right-hander thinks Major League Baseball needs to look a lot deeper than a roster limit if it wants to return starting pitching to prominence.

"I became a better pitcher once I went through three times in the lineup and was failing on that third time through the lineup," the 39-year-old Scherzer said. "That's every young pitcher's struggle, is learning how to pitch three times through a lineup. ... We're so scared now to let guys fail."

The state of starting pitching has the attention of MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred, who said in October the league is considering lowering the maximum of 13 pitchers per team to 12 possibly as soon as the 2025 season with the goal of placing a greater emphasis on starting pitchers.



Texas Rangers' Max Scherzer flips the ball in the air as he paces the dugout during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

Big league starters averaged 15.4 outs and 85.1 pitches last year, according to Sportradar, and 15.6 outs and 84.9 pitches in 2022. But the numbers were 17.4 and 93.1 as late as 2015, and 17.8 and 98.6 in 2000.

"I grew up a fan of the game, and me and my dad used to pick Astros games based on when Roy Oswalt was pitching," Chicago

Cubs right-hander Jameson Taillon said. "We would look at pitching matchups, that's what we would do. Nowadays, I feel like that allure is gone a little bit."

MLB wants to put that allure back in the game, but it's a tricky, multifaceted issue. Pitching prospects are closely monitored on their way to the majors, and deviating from the organization's plan could put the

careers of minor league managers and coaches at risk. There is more arm talent in big league bullpens than ever before, and reams of data that illustrate the danger of leaving a pitcher in for too long.

"From a fan perspective, yeah, to see a guy in there to go seven, eight innings, I absolutely get it," Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

"Doesn't necessarily help you win baseball games, and I'm in the business of winning games."

While a 12-pitcher limit could incentivize teams to let starting pitchers go deeper into games, it would add more stress to bullpens. It also could prompt teams to shuttle their middle relievers from the majors to the minor leagues even more regardless of their performance.

The long-term answer most likely lies in the lower levels of the minors and how baseball develops its next generation of starters.

"It starts with training in the minor leagues," Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said. "That's where it all begins. It's hard to do it when guys are coming up. They're not trained to do that. Now you're going to ask them to get you deeper in the games and now you're risking injury."

So you got to be smart about that."

The focus in the minors is more on stuff, Taillon said, and trying "to raise guys' ceiling at a young age."

"You see guys nowadays get called up who've never thrown five innings in their life," he said. "It's crazy." □

Andy Murray says he's unlikely to play 'past this summer' after loss to Humbert in Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray reiterated Monday that he is likely to retire from tennis before the season is over.

"I'm likely not going to play past this summer," the 36-year-old Murray said after losing 6-2, 6-4 to fifth-seeded Ugo Humbert at the Dubai Championships. After rallying past Denis Shapovalov in three sets on Monday for his 500th hard-court win, the 36-year-old Murray hinted he was heading into the "last few months" of his career.

And he expanded a bit on those plans after the loss to Humbert, although

stopped short of setting a firm timeline for when he might retire.

"I get asked about it after every single match that I play, every single tourna-

ment that I play. I'm bored of the question, to be honest," Murray said. "I'm not going to talk more about that between now and whenever the time comes for me to stop. But, yes, I don't plan on playing much past this summer."

Humbert didn't face a break point before converting his first match point to reach the quarterfinals and secure a first career win over Murray, who lifted the trophy in Dubai in 2017. Murray, the 2012 and 2016 Olympic champion, told BBC Radio 4's Today Programme earlier Wednesday he would still like to play at the Paris Games, which run from July 26-Aug.

11. "Hopefully I can get the chance to compete at another (Olympics)," said Murray, who also won the U.S. Open in 2012.

In other early second-round matches, second-seeded Andrey Rublev, the 2022 champion, advanced to the quarterfinals of the hard-court tournament for the fifth straight time after eliminating Arthur Cazaux 6-4, 6-4.

Seventh-seeded Alexander Bublik also progressed with a 7-6 (8), 7-6 (2) win over Tallon Griekspoor.

Later Wednesday, defending champion Daniil Medvedev will be in action against Lorenzo Sonego. □



Andrew Murray from Great Britain reacts after losing a ball to Ugo Humbert of France during a match of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024.

Associated Press

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman calls on Jets, Winnipeg fans to find solution to attendance issues

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP)

— NHL commissioner Gary Bettman says he doesn't think the Winnipeg Jets' attendance issues are a red flag for the team's viability. Bettman and deputy commissioner Bill Daly spoke Tuesday, before the Jets hosted the St. Louis Blues. "I don't view this as a crisis," Bettman said. "But I do believe, as with any team in any market, there needs to be collaboration between community and the fan base and the club. And I believe ultimately it will be here."

Bettman's visit came days after Jets co-owner and chairman Mark Chipman said in an interview with



NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, right, and Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly speak to reporters before an NHL hockey game between the St. Louis Blues and the Winnipeg Jets on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Associated Press

The Athletic that current attendance numbers are "not going to work over the long haul."

Bettman said he wasn't in Winnipeg to address a particular need or concern, although he met with some business leaders.

The Jets say Winnipeg's season-ticket base has decreased 27% in three years from approximately 13,000 to just under 9,500. Canada Life Centre is the league's smallest permanent arena with a capacity of 15,225 for hockey games.

When Bettman visited Winnipeg in 2011 to announce the sale of the Atlanta Thrashers and the team's relocation, he talked about the city's smaller rink and the need to fill seats.

"I was quoted in 2011 saying for this to work well the building's gotta be full, and that's true," Bettman said Tuesday.

"I know that Mark Chipman and (co-owner) David Thomson aren't interested in just surviving in the NHL, they want to thrive along the lines of how the team is playing this year. And this will get sorted out."

After meeting with reporters, Bettman and Daly joined Chipman on the ice to talk to about 500 fans in the stands and answer some of their pre-submitted questions.

Chipman recognized the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession on fans, but said the organization is trying to be strong and healthy for everyone.

"It's not something that we can do it on our own," he told the fans. "There are very few levers that we can pull. But one is the number of people that come to games, so that's why it's so important to us."

"It's long-term health so that we can be competitive, so that you can be proud of our team."

Winnipeg is battling for top spot in the Central Division, and the Jets have the second-lowest average attendance at 13,098. □



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